[22nd March 1955

Industrial co-operatives for handloom weavers.

* 1530 *Q.*—Sri A. Ratnam : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have sent any proposals to the Union Government relating to the establishment of industrial co-operatives for handloom weavers in Malabar and Madurai to be financed from the Cess Fund;

(*b*) if so, what they are and the amount to be financed from the Cess Fund; and

(*c*) what further action, if any, has been taken so far on the proposals.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes Sir.

" (*b*) Schemes for the conversion of the Lokanath Weaving Factory at Chowa and the Kausalya Weaving Factory at Thottada in the Malabar district and the Mohan Ram and Company, Madurai, into industrial co-operatives have been approved by the Government of India for being financed from the Cess Fund. A sum of Rs. 1, 12,302-8-0 has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the two industrial co-operatives in Malabar as interest free loan and a similar loan of Rs. 42,237-8-0 has been sanctioned for the industrial co-operative at Madurai.

" (*c*) Orders for implementing all the three schemes have been issued. The Registrar is making arrangements to organize the co-operatives and to purchase or take on lease the factories from the proprietors of the concerns."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister how many members are there in the co-operative societies in Cannanore? Formerly there were 1,200 in Chirakkal taluk and now there are only 400. Will the Government be pleased to form more co-operative societies so as to enable more workers to come into the societies and be benefited by these? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" So far as the two factories in Malabar are concerned, I think there are about 175 workers. About extending the scheme, Government will consider the matter."

Misappropriation of funds by the Land Acquisition Tahsildar, Palghat.

* 1531 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Land Acquisition Tahsildar of Palghat, Malabar, has misappropriated a sum of Rs. 35,000 and is now absconding; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take to recover the amount and to book the concerned person?

22nd March 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) Yes. The sum embezzled is Rs. 30,247-3-3.

" (b) Police searched the house of the Tahsildar but nothing could be found. They have not yet succeeded in apprehending him. The Collector has issued orders to the effect that the arrears of leave salary due to the Tahsildar for December 1954 should not be paid to him until further orders. The Collector has also asked the present Tahsildar to show cause against the recovery of the portion of the loss for not having taken prompt action in this case."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, the period during which this embezzlement is said to have taken place?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It should have taken place between October and November 1954. Two bills for Rs. 17,000 and Rs. 12,000 odd were cashed by the Special Tahsildar for Acquisition, Palghat, on 8th October 1954. The Engineer waited till 10th December 1954 for the receipt from the Special Tahsildar of copies of the concerned award. But no award came. So it took place about that time, Sir."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, usually the misappropriated amounts are converted into jewels or other precious stones or gold. Have the Police taken an inventory of the jewels of the wife of the Tahsildar?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The person has not yet been apprehended."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" The Hon. Minister has stated that the person has not yet been apprehended but the report goes to show that he is still roaming about in his own surroundings. Will the Government see that he is apprehended?" 8-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I do not know whether there are any special facilities to seek the advice of experts like my hon. Friend and if they are available I shall advise the police to seek it."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" முப்பதாயிரம் ரூபாயைக் கையாடியிருக்கும் ஒருவர் சாதாரணமாக சரணாகதியடைந்துவிடமாட்டார். 'கையாடியிருப்பவரைப் பிடித்துக்கொடுப்பவருக்கு ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் வெகுமதி தருகிறோம்' என்று பிரகடனம் செய்தால் பொதுமக்கள் அவரைப் பிடித்துக் கொடுத்துவிடுவார்கள். ஆகவே, இந்த முறையில் ஏதாவது செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The police will take all such steps when they think it necessary."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Generally the land acquisition officer is the Revenue Divisional Officer and he is empowered

[22nd March 1955

to draw the bill. But how is it that this Tahsildar happened to draw it and an opportunity was given to him to misappropriate the amount? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" He is a special officer deputed for the special purpose of land acquisition."

Mufti Police for Avadi Congress Session.

* 1532 Q.—SRI K. T. SREEDHARAN (on behalf of Sri K. Moidu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Police personnel in mufti were employed to do the work of Congress volunteers during the Avadi session of the Congress? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir."

Local Fund Dispensary, Pennalurpet.

* 1533 Q.—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the amount allotted to Pennalurpet Local Fund Dispensary in Tiruvallur taluk for medicine in 1954;

(b) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to provide accommodation and beds for in-patients; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to take over this Local Fund Dispensary by the Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Rs. 1,350.

" (b) & (c) No, Sir."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that as there are two rivers on either side of this Local Fund Dispensary the people living in that area are not able to go out and get better accommodation and medical facilities and they are undergoing lot of difficulties? Therefore, will the Government consider the desirability of providing some beds and supplying proper medicines and equipment for this Dispensary before it is provincialized? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This Local Fund Dispensarry is under the control of the Chingleput District Board. The hon. Member may address the President of the District Board on this matter."

Fall in prices of agricultural products.

* 1534 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any communication from the Union Government to investigate into the causes of the steep fall in the prices of agricultural products in the State;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government; and